

# Commissioning Service

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. An remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

You have responded to that command in ministry here, and now in mission abroad.

In this mission trip, will you seek to make and sustain disciples?

As Jesus taught and preached the gospel, will you tell the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed?

As Jesus reached out to heal and to love, will you reach out in compassion?

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, will you nurture the children?

As Jesus prayed for God's guidance and strength, will you turn to God for help?

As Jesus sent 70 disciples out two by two, will you work with those who serve with you in mission?

Will you the members of this congregation support this mission with your prayers? We will.

In light of these commitments, we the members of Presbyterian Church commission you to serve God and the church in .

Sovereign Lord, you have saved us by your grace and have called us to serve you with our lives, promising to be with us always. Be close to and the other members of the mission team. Keep them safe, and give them strength and wisdom, compassion and courage that they may fulfill your will for them in . Bind them to you and to each other with the faith, hope, and love of the gospel, and lead them along your way. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

# Commissioning Litany

Leader: There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.

People: There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

Leader: There are different kinds of working, but the same God works in all of them in all people.

People: Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Leader: Today we commission ( names of team members ) to use their special gifts in mission in ( destination ).

People: May God's Spirit work in you, ( Names of team members ) for the common good.

Leader: Today we also commit to you, God, the Church in ( destination ) and those who are preparing for the coming of the mission team.

People: May God's Spirit work in all of them for the common good.

Leader: God has called us all, those who live in ( destination ), those who go as the mission team, and those of us who offer prayer and financial support, each one of us, as partners in service.

ALL: That all may come to know the abundance of life God has offered through Jesus Christ.

# Commissioning of Mission Team Participants

(During Sunday Worship preceding mission trip)

(Mission Team Coordinator and Pastor meet at front of Sanctuary.)

COORDINATOR: Briefly describes what the project is, and calls participants and leaders forward by name.

(They stand in front facing congregation.)

COORDINATOR:

There are different gifts,  
but the same Spirit who gives them.  
There are different ways of serving God,  
but it is the same Lord who is served.  
Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit,  
to use for the common good.  
Together we are the body of Christ,  
and individually members of the body of Christ.

(To congregation:) Friends, I present to you those who will represent this congregation in this mission project.

(To participants/leaders:) Mission workers, I present to you the people who have been and will continue to support you. They believe your mission is important.

PASTOR:

Do you accept the responsibility of representing this congregation in doing the work of our Lord in a distant place? If so, answer, "I do."

Will you work to exemplify Christ's teachings by loving one another and by translating Christ's message with excitement and care, turning strangers to friends and friends to brothers and sisters? If so, answer, "I will."

Will you serve in this special work with energy, intelligence, imagination and love, treasuring your experiences as opportunities to teach and to grow? If so, answer "I will."

(To congregation:)

Do you, the members and friends of Presbyterian Church, accept these people as missionaries chosen to extend our Christian love and concern to others? If so, answer, "I do."

Will you support them with your prayers during their venture and with your interest upon their return, recognizing their special contribution to the work of the Church and their mission as your own? If so, answer, "I will."

Let us pray: Gracious God, we present our hopes for these specially commissioned this day. In every age you have chosen servants to speak your word in unique and special and various ways. We thank you for these people whom you have called to serve you. Give them each special gifts to do their special work. Fill them with the Holy Spirit so they may accept all they confront, and be faithful and joyful in their task. Bring them safely home and then let their experience further enrich us so that we, too, may better serve you.

THOSE COMMISSIONED:

Creator God, now give us strength, wisdom and love to work for our Lord Jesus Christ as we serve others in distant places. Amen.

PASTOR:

You are now commissioned by this, your home congregation. Go forth, doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God through Jesus the Christ. Amen.